

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA	FORM NO.
N	478



City Lexington

Address 16 Bloomfield Street

Historic Name Prosser-Gookins House

Use: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION:

Period 1872-1875

Source deed and map research

Style Italianate

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric clapboards

Outbuildings garage

Major alterations (with dates) _____

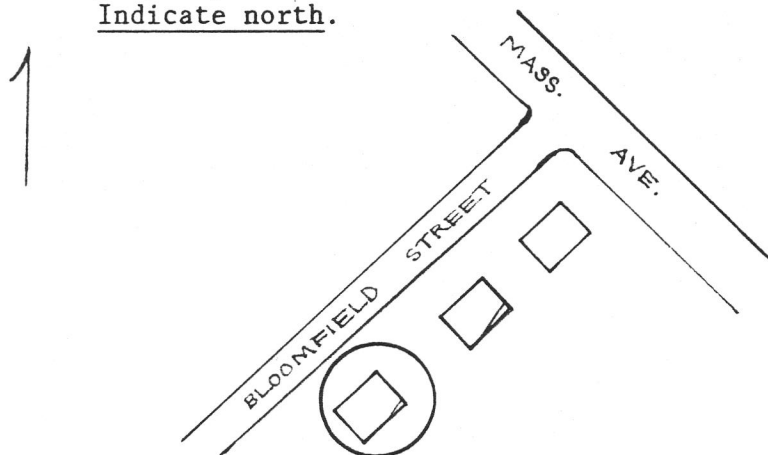
Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 40000 ft.²

Setting Residential street, developed primarily in the 1870s and 1880s; some later infill.

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.



Recorded by Anne Grady

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date March, 1984

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

There are relatively few Italianate houses in Lexington, and this is one of the most carefully detailed. Features include a central pavilion with first story porch, second-story rectangular bay window, and projecting wall dormer with round headed window and heavy brackets. A rope molding trims the front corners of the building. The windows of the facade have broad friezes and those on the first level have projecting caps. There is a double round-headed window in the gable. A glazed circular porch to the left rear and an oriel window on the right hand side are probably later additions.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

Levi Prosser laid out Bloomfield Street in house lots in 1872 and named the street after his birthplace in Connecticut. In 1875 he owned this house and one across the street at number 29. Where he actually resided is uncertain but this house being the more elaborate is the likely candidate. Prosser was a member of the first board of trustees of the Lexington Savings Bank and a selectman in 1883-1884. By 1886 Prosser had moved to Hartford, Connecticut.

In 1887, Samuel H. Gookins, a dry goods merchant, owned the house. He was a member of the Boston Board of Trade and was on the committee to receive the Prince of Wales in his visit to Boston in 1860.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Hudson, Charles. History of the Town of Lexington, revised and continued to 1912 by the Lexington Historical Society, Volume II, pp. 246, 548. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1913.

Lexington Minute Man, October 9, 1886.

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 25, plan 18, 1872.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
LEXINGTON

Property Address
16 BLOOMFIELD ST.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

N

478

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The property (then known as 4 Bloomfield Street) was sold by Charles Gookins to E. Philbrick in 1908 (*Minute-man*, March 21, 1908). E.M. Philbrick was a Boston lawyer who was still here in 1913. By 1918 the property was occupied by Nathan Banks who lived here with his wife and nine children. Nathan Banks (1868-1953) was an American entomologist noted for his work on mites. In 1916 he had begun work at the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University. He is last listed as living on Bloomfield Street in the 1922 directory.

The property was later acquired by Mrs. Nancy Dusingberre who lived here in the 1930s and was still here in 1942.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Lexington Minute-man, March 21, 1908.
U.S. Census, Lexington.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nathan_Banks

Supplement prepared by:
Lisa Mausolf
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